

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended to Applicants' attorney during the interview held January 12, 2004, in the above-identified application. During the interview, Applicants' attorney discussed with the Examiner the issues raised in the Office action. The discussion is summarized and expanded upon below.

The rejection of Claims 15-17, 22-23, 29-30, and 36-40 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to satisfy the description requirement therein is respectfully traversed.

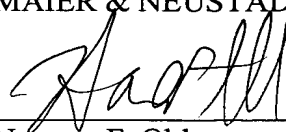
The rejection would now appear to be moot in view of the above-discussed amendment. Additionally, it is clear from the disclosure as a whole that there is nothing critical with regard to the particular medium in which the recited bacterium is administered, oatmeal gruel and a rose-hip drink containing oats being just two examples of such media. It is respectfully submitted that persons skilled in the art would expect similar efficacy regardless of medium used provided that the dose is the same.

For all the above reasons, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

All of the presently-pending claims in this application are now believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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